What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method for forwarding an audio message to a recipient, the method comprising:

2   establishing a telephone call with a user of an audio web telephone system using a

3   telephony device;

4   processing a command from the user to enable the user to retrieve an audio signal

5   accessible to the audio web telephone system via an Internet protocol ("IP") network;

6   providing the audio signal to the user via the telephony device;

7   receiving a request from the user to forward an audio message, the audio message at least

8   a part of the audio signal;

9   storing the audio message in a buffer location;

10   creating a reference pointer to the buffer location;

11   receiving from the user at least one address for a recipient; and

12   forwarding the reference pointer to the address of the recipient.

1   2.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   receiving an introductory message from the user; and

3   adding the introductory message from the user to the buffer location.

1   3.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   receiving an introductory message from the user;

3   storing the introductory message in a second buffer location;

4   creating a second reference pointer to the second location; and

5   forwarding the second reference pointer to the address of the recipient.

1   4.   The method of claim 1 wherein the address of the recipient is an electronic mail message
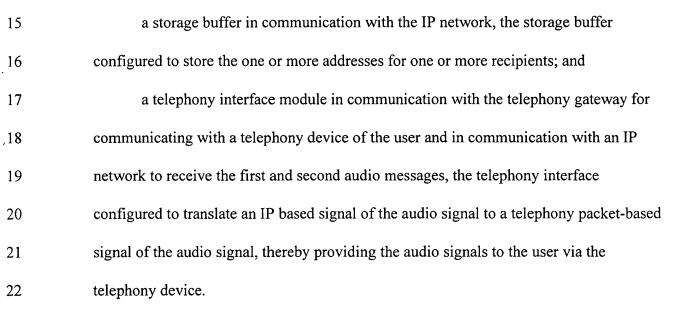
2   ("email") address.

1   5.   The method of claim 1 wherein the address of the recipient is a phone number.

1   6.   The method of claim 5 further comprising:

2   verifying that the recipient is a subscriber to a short message service;

3   creating a phone number pointer to the audio message; and

4   forwarding the phone number pointer to the short message service of the recipient.

1   7.   The method of claim 1 wherein the step of establishing further comprises originating, by

2   the user a phone call to the audio web telephone system.

1   8.   The method of claim 1 wherein the step of establishing further comprises originating, by

2   the audio web telephone system a phone call to the user.

1   9.   A method for forwarding an audio message to a recipient, the method comprising:

2   establishing a telephone call with a user of an audio web telephone system using a

3   telephony device;

4   processing a command from the user to enable the user to retrieve an audio signal

5   accessible to the audio web telephone system via an Internet protocol ("IP") network;

6   providing the audio signal to the user via the telephony device;

7   receiving a request from the user to forward an audio message, the audio message at least

8   a part of the audio signal;

9   receiving at least one address of a recipient from the subscriber; and

10   forwarding the audio message to the address of the recipient.

11 10. The method of claim 9 further comprising:

12   receiving an introductory message from the user; and

13   adding the introductory message from the user to the audio message forwarded to the

14   recipient.

1   11.   The method of claim 9 wherein the address of the recipient is an electronic mail message

2   ("email") address.

1   12.   The method of claim 9 wherein the address of the recipient is a phone number.

1   13.   The method of claim 9 wherein the step of establishing further comprises originating, by

2   the user a phone call to the audio web telephone system.

1   14.   The method of claim 9 wherein the step of establishing further comprises originating, by

2   the audio web telephone system a phone call to the user.

1   15.   An audio web telephone system for forwarding an audio message to a recipient, the

2   system comprising:

3   a telephony gateway in communication with a public switched telephone network

4   ("PSTN"), the telephony gateway configured to receive a telephone call from a user using a

5   telephony device;

6   an Internet protocol ("IP") network; and

7   an audio browser comprising:

8   a content retrieval module in communication with the IP network, the content

9   retrieval module configured to provide a first audio signal from the IP network;

10   a VXML browser in communication with the IP network, the VXML browser

11   configured to a) execute a dialog retrieving one or more addresses for one or more

12   recipients to forward an audio message, the audio message at least a part of the first audio

13   signal, and b) generate a second audio signal in response to processing Voice XML code

14   within the dialog;

15   a storage buffer in communication with the IP network, the storage buffer

16   configured to store the one or more addresses for one or more recipients; and

17   a telephony interface module in communication with the telephony gateway for

18   communicating with a telephony device of the user and in communication with an IP

19   network to receive the first and second audio messages, the telephony interface

20   configured to translate an IP based signal of the audio signal to a telephony packet-based

21   signal of the audio signal, thereby providing the audio signals to the user via the

22   telephony device.

1   16.   The system of claim 15 further comprising a web cache in communication with the IP

2   network, the web cache configured to store the audio message for future transmittals to the one or

3   more recipients.

1   17.   The system of claim 15 further comprising web cache.

1   18.   The system of claim 15 wherein the audio browser further comprises a navigation

2   module.

1   19.   The system of claim 18 wherein the navigation module further comprises one of speech

2   recognition module and touch tone (DTMF) recognition module.

1   20.   The system of claim 15 wherein the content retrieval module further comprises one of

2   text-to-speech module and streaming media module.